

MINUTES

Purpose: Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to reduce the number of adults engaged in substance use.

Attendees: Petra Maddens, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Lauren Hobbs, DOH-Okaloosa; Trisha Dall; DOH-Okaloosa; Emily Tash-Pickens, DOH-Okaloosa; Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa; Solange Arnett; Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center; Kylee Gallavan, Freedom Life Compass; Lauren Anzaldo, Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System.

Welcome & Introductions – Petra Maddens

- Petra Maddens opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Petra reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. She also shared the results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting.
- Minutes from the April 12, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – Kylee Gallavan

- Emily stated she has not received feedback via email on the resource rack card. No additional feedback was provided during the meeting.
 - Emily will resend the rack card to the group for additional edits. She will present it to the OCHIP Champions at their next meeting in June.

Action Items – Petra Maddens

- Emily suggested the Healthy Behaviors group revisit priorities and determine the trajectory of the group. The current focus is on reintegration and substance use, to include alcohol, tobacco, and both illegal and legal drugs.
 - Emily shared she learned Florida has a recidivism rate of one-third of the prison population. She suggested the group choose reintegration as a priority focus for as no other OCHIP group is currently working on this topic.
 - The group agreed to begin focusing more on reintegration efforts.
- Emily facilitated discussion amongst group members to share their reasons for interest in the group initially. Attendees shared responses.
- Attendees engaged in discussion regarding existing reintegration resources in the community.
 - Kylee shared Freedom Life Compass works in the jail to provide resources to those who elect to attend their sessions before being released. She explained their procedure includes a reintegration meeting with inmates. Stephanie provides a presentation that includes resources and supports on the first Monday of each month. The meeting is required for anyone being released that month.

- She shared some barriers that prevent people from receiving services before or after release include having violent crimes charges and dislike of religious-based services, which is predominantly what is offered.
- Other members added that lack of access to health insurance or medical care after release is an important barrier to address. It can prevent some from accessing treatment. Housing is an additional important concern.
- Members expressed frustration with organizations not working together to help people in need of reintegration support, or that the community shares resources but does not act.
- The group also discussed transitional housing availability. Kylee shared Freedom Life Compass cannot provide rehabilitation services but can serve as a support facility or transitional housing.
 - They have had success getting people sentenced to their facility in certain circumstances. This prevented people from entering the justice system and they were able to intervene on their behalf where deemed appropriate.
- Lauren Anzaldo shared the VA has Vet Treatment Court and other supportive options for veterans in need of intervention or reintegration resources. This includes peer to peer support, substance use treatment, and mental health treatment.
 - She also shared there was previously a task force in the region called REAP (Re-Entry Assistance Program). They worked on numerous issues related to re-entry, including affordable and transitional housing.
 - Emily and Lauren Hobbs will learn more about the group and invite them to future meetings to share successes or lessons learned. They will also investigate local, state, and national best practices for reintegration.
- Emily offered to facilitate a fishbone diagram on reintegration at the next meeting to identify resources, contributing factors, and barriers. The group agreed.
- Attendees discussed key partners needed to effectively discuss reintegration efforts.
 - Lauren stated she will share with contacts in her organization.
 - Kylee will work with Stephanie to invite contacts from the Okaloosa County Clerk of Court and Department of Corrections.
 - Kylee shared she will also work with Stephanie on a flow chart to better explain the process of their program in the jail. She will also learn if there is data available through Freedom Life Compass regarding the number of services provided or most frequently requested from those being released locally.
 - Other organizations included CareerSource, Bridgeway, local law enforcement, attorneys, and others involved in the legal system.
 - Emily will share the agenda around one month before the next meeting to recruit partners who would benefit from the discussion.

Open Discussion – All

- Kylee shared Freedom Life Compass's women's home is open, and they recently gained approval to add additional beds.
- Emily asked the group if there is still a Domestic Violence Care Continuum or similar group run by Shelter House. Solange stated she will connect us to their contact.

Closing – Petra Maddens

- Petra thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the meeting evaluation form to provide feedback.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM via Microsoft Teams only.

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Determine if external partners can utilize DOH- Okaloosa Opioid/Naloxone Presentation outside of OCHIP	Petra Maddens	July 12th	In Progress
Provide feedback on the draft rack card to Emily via email at Emily.Pickens@flhealth.gov	ALL	ASAP	Ongoing
Invite other relevant partners to next meeting	ALL	Next meeting	Ongoing
Invite CareerSource and local police department representatives to next meeting	Emily Pickens	July 12 th	In progress
Share Shelter House representative information with Emily	Solange Arnett	ASAP	Not started
Invite local leaders involved with reintegration or Department of Corrections	Kylee Gallavan, Stephanie Wedel	July 12 th	Not started
Research reintegration best practices	Lauren Hobbs, Emily Pickens	July 12 th	Not started
Reach out to REAP for information and a contact	Lauren Hobbs, Emily Pickens	July 12 th	Not started